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ABSTRACT

This month-by-month calendar of suggested sensory activities is intended to be part of the science curriculum in kindergarten and the primary grades. It takes advantage of the child's natural interest in examining the world around him. Lists of natural and man-made objects appropriate to each school month are divided according to the sense to which they appeal most. (KM)

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Year-Round Sensory Activities

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Contributed by
Participants at
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On Sensory Experiences

Sensory experiences were at one time both incidental and accidental activities of the early childhood program. Today, however, as planned components of science, they are a distinct measure of quality in the kindergarten-primary grades.

Children, of course, like to explore and examine. They want to know about animals, plants, energy as well as weight, taste, odor. They are intensely interested in the manipulation of anything from the natural world. Sensory activities, either of short or long duration, actually deal with many aspects of science and can be as inclusive as teacher and children desire.

Although dimensions of sensory experiences are unlimited, certain activities seem to appeal to many young children. Given the opportunity, youngsters will move quickly from one item of interest to another, working briefly but intensely until they have explored them all.

Sensory programs do need to allow for incidental contributions but the basic program should be organized and not fragmentary.

As a beginning, the following list suggests selected monthly activities that appeal to young children.

Charlotte G. Garman
Editor

	SEE	FEEL	HEAR	SMELL	TASTE	
S E P T E M B E R	1. New friends 2. New environment-school building and grounds 3. Fall flowers 4. Apples of various colors 5. Collections of classmates - e.g. - sea shells, dolls 6. New T.V. shows 7. Different teaching materials, e.g., filmstrip projector, tape recorder, etc.	1. New clothes for school (new shoes) 2. School tools - chalk, crayons, scissors, different types of paper 3. Pine cones, acorns, chestnut burrs, walnuts 4. Different playground equipment 5. Smooth apples, nubby apples 6. School walls, interior, exterior 7. Green pine cones 8. Peaches 9. Rhythm sticks	1. Sounds in the classroom 2. Birds flying south 3. Cafeteria sounds 4. Hall sounds 5. Playground sounds 6. Fire alarm for fire drill 7. Rhythm sticks 8. Records 9. Piano	1. Objects in classroom - clay, magic marker, paint 2. Cafeteria aromas 3. Snack time treats 4. Nurse's office 5. Fall flowers 6. Fall fruits (apples,peaches) 7. Vinegar made from apples 8. Cider 9. Grapes 10. Pine cones	1. Apples - all kinds - tart, sweet, hard, soft, dry, juicy 2. Grapes, grape juice 3. Honey 4. Raw vegetables - carrots, celery, onion, potatoes, lettuce, cabbage 5. Peaches, peach jam 6. Apple products, apple jelly, apple butter, (on saltines!) apple dumplings (that children have made), apple sauce 7. Cider	

	SEE	FEEL	HEAR	SMELL	TASTE
OCTOBER	1. Leaves changing color 2. Seeds and nuts 3. Falling leaves 4. Leaves raked into piles 5. Squirrels storing food 6. Grass turning brown 7. Frost 8. Football games 9. Flags on Columbus Day and Veterans' Day 10. Indian corn, field corn, popcorn, strawberry corn 11. Pumpkins, gourds 12. Halloween costumes 13. Weeds 14. Dead gardens 15. Leaf collector	1. Crisp, cool, clear air 2. First frost 3. Fuzzy caterpillar 4. Seeds (make into seed pictures) 5. Leaves used for crayon rubbings 6. Cleaning a pumpkin 7. Bobbing for apples 8. Warmer and heavier materials in clothing 9. Rhythm instruments 10. English and black walnuts, acorns 11. Indian feathers	1. Sounds of leaves falling, blowing, being stepped upon, being raked, burning 2. Real sounds heard at Halloween season - owl, cat 3. Make-believe sounds of Halloween - witches, ghosts, etc. 4. Dried gourds used as rattles and other noisemakers. 5. Columbus Day songs 6. Leaf collector	1. Spices, e.g., cinnamon, clove, ginger 2. Burning leaves 3. Moth balls 4. Candies, cookies and other treats given at Halloween 5. Popcorn 6. Weeds 7. Pine Cones 8. Pumpkin Pie 9. Jack-o-lantern	1. Applesauce 2. Cinnamon on applesauce 3. Popcorn (made in the classroom) 4. Different nuts-English and black walnuts, raw and roasted peanuts 5. Corn bread or corn muffins 6. Spice cookies, gingerbread cookies

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NOVEMBER	1. Bare trees and brown grass 2. Cornstalks made into a cornshock 3. Hunters in the fields 4. Items collected from hunting (tails, feathers, skins, etc.) 5. Pheasants and deer in open fields. 6. Preparations for winter weather: . snow fences . furnaces working . smoke in chimneys 7. Turkeys - on a farm, in the grocery store, on the dinner table 8. Thanksgiving cornucopia 9. Fall sky	1. Dried weeds (made into fall centerpieces) 2. Different kinds of feathers: . pheasant . turkey . chicken . bird 3. Fresh fruit and dried fruit 4. Cold wind 5. Snow 6. Animal hides and leathers 7. Various kinds of tree bark	1. Sounds of various birds: . turkey . pheasant . wild geese . duck 2. Gunshots 3. Drums and other Indian instruments 4. Thanksgiving songs 5. Marching bands 6. Wild geese going south	1. Sweet and sour odors from foods, e.g., syrup and pickles 2. Incense 3. Turkey baking	1. Pumpkin pie 2. Mincemeat 3. Smoked meats, e.g., dried beef, ham 4. Cranberries 5. Dried fruit and corresponding fresh fruit

	SEE	FEEL	HEAR	SMELL	TASTE
D E C E M B E R	1. Many types and sizes of evergreen trees decorated for Christmas 2. Different kinds of tree ornaments 3. Tinsel in strands and garlands 4. Nativity scenes 5. Homes decorated 6. Wreaths 7. Candles 8. Lights 9. Poinsettias 10. Bells 11. Sleds 12. Santa Claus 13. Toys 14. Reindeer 15. Elves 16. Candy & cookies 17. Ice skaters 18. Winter sky	1. Pine needles, other evergreens 2. Ornaments 3. Bows (velvet, satin) 4. Packages of many shapes and sizes 5. Santa's beard and belly 6. Soft, fluffy toys 7. Holly and mistletoe 8. Holiday spirit	1. Bells 2. Toy trains 3. Caroling 4. Holiday greetings 5. Christmas stories and songs 6. Chimes 7. Santa's "Ho, Ho, Ho!" 8. Hustling, bustling shoppers 9. Skates scraping on ice 10. Salvation Army street bells	1. Peppermint candy 2. Scents of pine and bayberry 3. Freshly baked cookies 4. Flavorings, e.g., vanilla, chocolate, almond	1. Gingerbread cookies 2. Fruit cake 3. Citrus fruits - oranges, tangerines, grapefruit 4. Egg nog

	SEE	FEEL	HEAR	SMELL	TASTE	
JANUARY	1. Icicles 2. Ice melting 3. Breath freezing 4. Tracks in the snow 5. Frost on windows 6. Snow-covered trees 7. Winter birds 8. Snow plows 9. Snowmobiles 10. Skiers 11. January sky	1. Icicles 2. Shape of mittens and of gloves 3. Cold, numb fingers and toes, ruddy noses 4. Pullover caps (mask-type) 5. Chilling winds 6. Paper snowflakes 7. Packed snow, loose snow 8. Ice	1. New Year's celebrations - balloons breaking 2. Sounds of snow plow and snow blowers 3. Scraping ice off windshields 4. Chains on tires 5. Sleds coasting on snow 6. Skaters 7. Winter birds, e.g., chickadee, junco, cardinal	1. Sauerkraut 2. Fuel burning for heat - logs, coal, oil, gas 3. Cold medications 4. Wet mittens 5. Vanilla (to be used in ice cream)	1. Hot chocolate with marshmellows 2. Maple syrup 3. Homemade ice cream	

	SEE	FEEL	HEAR	SMELL	TASTE
FEBRUARY	1. Valentine's Day decorations 2. Mailmen busily delivering cards 3. Artificial flowers 4. Flags on Washington's and Lincoln's birthday 5. Silhouettes of Lincoln (on penny) and Washington 6. Groundhog 7. Lindberg's "Spirit of St. Louis" 8. Electric lights in honor of Edison 9. Snowdrops 10. First pussy willows 11. Sky clouds	1. Various textures of valentines - satin, velvet 2. Raised silhouette of Lincoln on the penny 3. Artificial flowers - plastic, tissue paper, silk 4. Coughing 5. Wigs (George Washington type) 6. Lace 7. Early pussy-willows 8. Postman's bag	1. Patriotic stories of Lincoln and Washington 2. Words expressing affection 3. Stories of Edison, Lindbergh 4. Patriotic records	1. Cherry pie 2. Perfumed cards 3. Valentine candies 4. Candy cherries	1. Cinnamon hearts compared to other candies 2. Cherry flavored jello 3. Cherry flavored cool-aid 4. Candy cherries

	SEE	FEEL	HEAR	SMELL	TASTE
M A R C H	1. Mud after snow has melted 2. Kites flying 3. Insects and birds 4. Buds on trees 5. Grass sprouting 6. Pictures of leprechauns 7. Lions - lambs 8. Buds on trees 9. Trees blowing 10. Shades of green 11. Clouds, longer daylight	1. Wind 2. Mud 3. Warmer weather 4. Seeds and soil 5. Flower bulbs 6. Paints to make shades of green 7. Potato prints	1. Wind 2. Birds 3. Irish music 4. Early farm sounds	1. Damp air 2. Seeds and bulbs	1. Sample dehydrated foods spacemen eat: .Tang . Instant hot cereal 2. Irish potatoes

	SEE	FEEL	HEAR	SMELL	TASTE	
A P R I L	1. Colored eggs 2. Easter bonnets 3. Flowers sprouting and blooming 4. Birds nesting 5. Rain & umbrellas 6. Ploughed fields 7. Baby animals - ducks, chicks, rabbits, lambs, puppies, kittens 8. Frogs and tadpole eggs 9. Wildflowers 10. Blossoms 11. Worms after rain 12. Puddles 13. Rivers & streams rising 14. Dew in morning 15. Garden tools 16. Long daylight	1. Rain 2. Splashing in puddles 3. Pussy willows 4. Warm sun 5. Easter grass & woven baskets 6. Blossoms 7. Bunnies 8. Dyeing eggs 9. Dew 10. Lambs' wool 11. Freshly dug earth	1. Birds 2. Raindrops 3. Thunder 4. Squishing shoes 5. Cars & trucks splashing water on wet roads 6. Easter music 7. Tractors in fields	1. Flowers: .Crocus .Daffodils .Tulips .Forsythia 2. Chocolate Easter candy 3. Farm smells - fertilizer 4. Blossoms 5. Jelly beans	1. Hard-boiled eggs 2. Marshmallow candy 3. Dandelion leaves 4. Raindrops 5. Jelly beans 6. Chocolate Easter eggs 7. Red-beet eggs	

	SEE	FEEL	HEAR	SMELL	TASTE	
M A Y	1. Roller skates, bicycles and other outdoor play equipment 2. Longer daylight 3. Caterpillars and cocoons 4. Bees collecting nectar from blossoms 5. House cleaning 6. Colorful spring clothes 7. Leaves, blossoms on trees 8. Maypole and streamers 9. Violets, lily of the valley 10. Azaleas 11. Forsythia	1. Tight clothes 2. Sticky sweat 3. Fuzzy green moss 4. Smooth, silky flower petals 5. Warm sunshine 6. Itching from poison ivy 7. Sting from insect bites 8. Milky dandelion stems 9. Wild flowers, violets, lilies of the valley	1. Mosquitos, bees and flies buzzing 2. May Festival and carnival sounds 3. Bell on ice cream truck 4. Baseball games 5. Swings squeaking 6. Crickets chirping 7. Roller skates	1. New mown grass 2. Lilacs 3. Fresh paint 4. Charcoal burning 5. Lilies of the valley 6. Limes, lemons	1. Crushed ice (snow cones) 2. Wild strawberries 3. Spring onions 4. Lemonade 5. Limeade	